GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2420
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2012
TRAINING TO PILOTS
Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao;Sharma Shri Jagdish

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air Force has fixed the target for giving training to 220 pilots at present which is 15 to 30 percent less than the requirement;

(b) whether the Government has adequate strength of pilots to cater to the 126 number of aircraft to be purchased from France;

(c) if not, the time by which the arrangement is likely to be made for these aircraft;

(d) whether the Air Force has failed to purchase simulators for the trainer aircraft or to upgrade them during the last one decade; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken, to meet the shortage of pilots?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) No, Madam.

(b) & (c): Acquisition of new platforms is part of the modernisation and upgradation of Indian Air Force's capabilities. The new combat aircraft would be manned by pilots of the existing older fleet, which are planned for replacement by the new aircraft.

(d) & (e): Simulators for different trainer aircrafts like Advanced Jet Trainer, Intermediate Jet Trainer, Basic Jet Trainer, Kiran MK I/II, HPT-32 have been contracted.

Concerted efforts have been taken by IAF to carry out a proactive publicity campaign including (i) participation in career training and exhibitions; (ii) advertisement in print and electronic media; (iii) motivational lectures; and (iv) visuals / signage at strategic locations to meet the shortage of pilots. Flying Branch has also been opened for men Short Service Commissioned Officers. Two Air Force Selection Boards are being set up to augment selection capacity.